(a) whether it is a fact that country loses approximately 18 per cent of its crop yield valued Rs. 90,000 crores due to pest attacks each year according to rating agency CARE;

(b) if so, whether Government agrees with the findings of CARE; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the crop yield due to pest attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the report of Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE) on Indian Pesticides Industry, the country loses approximately 18% of the crop yield valued at Rs.90,000 crore due to pest attack each year. The report has cited 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals (2002) on 'Production and Availability of Pesticides'.

(b) It is estimated that crop losses due to insect pest, diseases and weeds range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack.

(c) To prevent/reduce crop losses due to pests the Government has been implementing a scheme, namely, "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection strategy through Farmers' Field Schools organized by 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory. Suitable interventions for plant protection are also made through other schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission etc.

Recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee Report

1697. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority had approved the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 based on the recommendation of above report;

(d) if so, whether steps will be taken to consult the competent authority of Kerala before implementing the recommendations of the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government of India constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan to suggest an implementable action plan for reviving rural cooperative credit institutions in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, Government of India

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